country, and in fact, over the whole globe, for, as we have long since had occasion to show, the droughts of India gradually extend eastward, and in the course of three or four years make themselves felt in the United States and Europe, while in the meantime a period of average or abundant rain has come to India. Those who are suffering from drought may rest assured that plenty of water will come in a few years, and those who now have a plenty should husband it for the drought that is sure to come.

These climatic oscillations from one extreme to another, whether it be sunshine, temperature, wind, or rain are essentially a part of the necessary regimen of the earth's atmosphere. The formation of rain undoubtedly depends essentially upon uprising currents of air, cooled by expansion so that they can no longer retain the moisture carried up from the ocean and the ground. Changes in the seasonal rainfall imply changes in the seasonal winds; these changes may be systematic, that is to say, the direct result of the system of forces that acts upon the earth's atmosphere, but by no means necessarily strictly periodic.

The general study of periodicity in the earth's atmosphere must be pursued by following up the logical dynamic reasoning indicated in a general way in the memoir "On long range forecasts" lately read before the American Association for the Advancement of Science, at Denver, and which will be published in the MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW.—*C. A.*

AURORAL LIGHT.

The following extracts are from the Climate and Crop Section reports, November, 1901:

Laporte, Ind.—About 5:30 p. m. on the 28th, the observer noticed a peculiar light in the western heavens. The sky was covered with broken clouds, through which the light shone.

Huntington, Ind.—A peculiar streak of light was observed in the northwest about 6 p. m. on the 28th.

Stiffenville, Lewis County, Mo.—An aurora observed on the 28th.

The aurora borealis appears in every form, from the most magnificent display to the most insignificant patches of light that appear for a few moments and fade away forever. The above phenomena may well have been of the latter auroral character. Laporte, Ind., is from 50 to 75 miles northwest of Huntington. A northeast wind had been blowing from out an area of high pressure; the sky was covered with cumulostratus clouds at Laporte, but was probably clear at Huntington. These are the conditions that generally accompany auroras and we may assume that there was a faint one on the present occasion, although it was not observed elsewhere in the United States or in Canada.—*C. A.*

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MARTINIQUE WEATHER SERVICE.

In a letter dated November 11, 1901, M. Merlin, Governor of Martinique, announces the establishment of a "Service of weather warnings which will be located at the military hospital of Fort de France under the direction of the Chief of the Health Service."

The Governor kindly volunteers to transmit monthly copies of observations to the Weather Bureau at Washington, and arrangements have been made for a reciprocal interchange of weather cablegrams between Martinique and the United States during the hurricane season.—*H. H. K.*

SECOND MEXICAN METEOROLOGICAL CONGRESS.

The following interesting program has been announced for the second National Meteorological Congress of Mexico, at the City of Mexico, December 17–20, 1901, in the hall of the Scientific Society "Antonio Alzate."

INAUGURAL SESSION, ENGINEER D. LEANDRO FERNÁNDEZ, MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR, PRESIDING.

December 17, 10 *a. m.*

1. Address of welcome by the vice president of the Society "Alzate."
2. The minister declares the Second National Meteorological Congress open.
3. Report of Prof. D. Mariano Leal, President of the Permanent Committee.
4. Report of the Treasurer of the Permanent Committee.
5. Designation of the presidents for the subsequent sessions and appointment of the committees.

On the evening of the 16th and the morning of the 18th the committees will meet in order to formulate the questions on which the congress will principally report.

December 18, 3:30 *p. m.*

1. Presbyter Severo Diaz, The predictions of Engineer Juan N. Contreras; Examination of meteorological criticism.
2. José Guzman, Principles of forecasting at short intervals.
3. Prof. Luis G. Léon, The Leyden jar as an apparatus for weather predictions.
4. Engineer José M. Romero, Application of the movement of the great aerial currents to weather prediction.

December 19, 9:30 *a. m.*

1. Presbyter Aniceto Castellanos, The volcano Colima and the weather conditions in that region.
2. Prof. Luis G. Léon, Measurement of insolation.
3. Mr. Elpidio López, Climatology of Chignahuapan.
4. Report of the committee on weather prediction.

December 19, 3:30 *p. m.*

1. Dr. Luis E. Ruiz, Hygienic value of local meteorological data.
2. Mrs. Professor María Luisa Dominguez, Study of storms and thunderstorms.
3. Prof. Manuel Moreno y Anda, Reduction of the curves of self-registering instruments.
4. Report of the committee on climatology and its application to agriculture.

December 20, 9 *a. m.*

1. Prof. Mariano Leal, A seismographic clock conforming to the decisions of the first Meteorological Congress.
2. Engineer Guillermo B. y Puga, Study of electrical storms.
3. Prof. Raquel Sánchez Suárez, The teaching of meteorology in primary schools.
4. Dr. José Ramirez, Study of the effects of the thunderbolt.
5. Dr. Joaquin Urrutia, (*a*) Improvements effected in the observatory of the State College (Colegio del Estado) at Puebla; (*b*) Comparison of the extreme values given by the instruments of direct observation and those by self-registering instruments.
6. Report of the committee on storms.

December 20, 3:30 *p. m.*

1. Prof. Rafael Aguilar Santillán, Bibliography of Mexican meteorology.
2. Results of the study of instruments shelters, by Mr. Leal and Mr. Moreno y Anda.
3. Prof. Enrique E. Schulz, Memoir on the improvement of the meteorological service in the state of Mexico.
4. Report of the committee on self-registering apparatus.
5. Report of the committee on the popularization of meteorological knowledge and the establishment of new stations.
6. Miscellaneous questions and the nomination of the permanent committee for 1902.
7. The under Secretary of the Interior, Engineer D. Gilberto Montiel y Estrada, will declare the second National Meteorological Congress closed.—*H. H. K.*

CORRIGENDA.

MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW for September, 1901, page 419, column 2, line 30, after the word "velocity" insert "of the upper current from the resultant velocity."

MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW for February, 1901, page 56, column 1, line 36, in place of "and St. Kitts, Antigua, and Barbadoes. On the other hand," read "and St. Kitts. Antigua, and Barbados, on the other hand."

Column 2, line 26, after "slopes" insert period (.) in place of comma (,).

Line 38, insert "elevation" before "only;" line 39, for "visitor" read "visitors."

Page 56, column 1, line 2, dele "which."